

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(currently amended):** A method ~~of for use in the~~ manufacturing of a fluid dynamic pressure bearing, the bearing comprising a shaft having a bearing surface and [[,]] a sleeve having a bearing surface, wherein the shaft is received within the sleeve, and wherein the ~~being formed so as to accommodate said shaft therein and to define bearing surfaces of the shaft and sleeve confront and are spaced from one another, whereby a gap is defined between the bearing surface of said the shaft and the inner bearing surface of said the sleeve, oil as lubricating fluid, a radial bearing section and/or a thrust bearing section including said gap filled with said oil, wherein said method comprising:~~

~~said oil is stored~~ storing oil, which will serve as a lubricating fluid of the fluid dynamic pressure bearing, in [[the]] a first vacuum chamber, [[the]] and evacuating the first chamber to establish a pressure in the first vacuum chamber which is lower than [[the]] atmospheric pressure;

~~said placing the shaft and sleeve of the~~ fluid dynamic pressure bearing ~~is placed~~ in [[the]] a second vacuum chamber, [[the]] and evacuating the second pressure chamber to establish a pressure in the second vacuum chamber which is lower than [[the]] atmospheric pressure;

~~the interior of said first vacuum chamber communicates with the interior of said second vacuum chamber through a pipe, through which said oil is supplied from said first vacuum chamber to said fluid dynamic bearing placed in said second vacuum chamber;~~

terminating the evacuation of the first and second vacuum chambers at such a time that the pressure in the first vacuum chamber is made lower than the pressure in the second vacuum chamber at the time of completing the pressure reduction in those vacuum chambers; and

while the pressure in each of the first and second vacuum chambers is lower than atmospheric pressure, and the pressure in the first vacuum chamber is lower than the pressure in the second vacuum chamber, feeding the oil is successively sent toward the area having higher pressure in a apparatus which comprises said from the first vacuum chamber, said into the second vacuum chamber and said pipe via piping that places the first and second vacuum chambers in communication with one another and terminates adjacent the gap defined between the bearing surfaces of the shaft and sleeve, thereby being supplied supplying the oil to the fluid dynamic pressure bearing.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended): A manufacturing method of a fluid dynamic pressure bearing according to Claim 1, wherein a ~~valve mechanism for sending the~~ supplying of the oil in said pipe toward the second vacuum chamber is to the fluid dynamic pressure bearing comprises opening a valve disposed in the pipe piping.

4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended): A manufacturing method of a fluid dynamic pressure bearing according to Claim 1, wherein the liquid level of the oil stored in the first vacuum chamber is ~~placed at a position~~ higher than the fluid dynamic pressure bearing, when ~~at least~~ the oil is supplied through the piping to the fluid dynamic pressure bearing.

6. (canceled)

7. **(currently amended):** A ~~manufacturing method of a fluid dynamic pressure bearing~~ according to Claim 3, wherein the liquid level of the oil stored in the first vacuum chamber is ~~placed at a position~~ higher than the fluid dynamic pressure bearing, when ~~at least~~ the oil is supplied through the piping to the fluid dynamic pressure bearing

8. (canceled)

9. **(currently amended):** A ~~manufacturing method of a fluid dynamic pressure bearing~~ according to Claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising dripping the oil is degassed by being dripped into the pressure-reduced first vacuum chamber while the pressure in the first vacuum chamber is lower than atmospheric pressure to degas the oil.

10. (canceled)

11. **(currently amended):** A ~~manufacturing method of a fluid dynamic pressure bearing~~ according to Claim 1, wherein the ~~reduced pressure level in~~ pressure established in the second vacuum chamber is not more than 1000 Pa.

12. (canceled)

13. **(new):** A method for use in the manufacturing of a fluid dynamic pressure bearing, a first member having a bearing surface, and a second member having a bearing surface, the first and second member being supported relative to one another such that the bearing surfaces thereof confront and are spaced from one

another, whereby a gap is defined between the bearing surfaces, the method comprising:

degassing oil, which will serve as a lubricating fluid of the fluid dynamic pressure bearing, in a first environment under a first pressure which is lower than atmospheric pressure;

placing the first and second members in a second environment under a pressure lower than atmospheric pressure and higher than the pressure in the first environment; and

supplying the degassed oil to the gap between the bearing surfaces of the first and second members of the fluid dynamic pressure bearing while the first and second members are in the second environment under pressure lower than atmospheric pressure and higher than the pressure in the first environment; and

subsequently increasing the pressure in the second environment to force the oil into the gap between the bearing surfaces of the first and second members of the hydrodynamic fluid.

14. **(new):** The method as claimed in claim13, wherein the increasing of the pressure in the second environment comprises feeding air into the second environment.

15. **(new):** A method according to Claim 13, wherein the degassing of the oil comprises dripping the oil into the first environment while the pressure in the first environment is lower than atmospheric pressure to degas the oil.